

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The number of schools in Lithuania has increased enormously since the war and all the schools are full. In addition, the universities are fuller than ever before. The reason for this high attendance rate is that everyone who possibly can tries to enroll in the university or in a technical school, particularly the youths from the country who run away from life on the collective farms. The schools provide these young men with an opportunity to leave the collectives because stipends are obtainable, and the trade or professional schools provide boarding or lodging houses as well.
2. Once enrolled in school or university, however, the pupils or students are faced with the problem of joining the ranks of the Komsomol. It is rare for one to do this of his own free will. The student who wishes to graduate cannot avoid joining; if he refuses or tries to evade, various means of intimidation are employed. For example, the professor will call him out in front of all the others and start asking awkward questions as to why he refuses to join. Naturally, no one dares to say openly that he hates the organization and does not wish to join it at all; he, therefore, tries to make excuses that he is very busy and has no time. Such excuses are of little avail.
3. Having joined the Komsomol, the youth then finds himself in a very awkward situation. He has been compelled to join or forego completion of his studies, but ordinary citizens dislike and distrust anyone who belongs to the Komsomol. The members of the Komsomol feel this distrust and are pushed toward Communism, even against their own inclination, because they begin to feel that they have burned their bridges and that there is no alternative. They are afraid that, should war break out, they must share the fate of other Communists.

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